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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

2 -----x
KATHY CAMACHO, et al.,

3 Plaintiffs,

4 v.

19 Civ. 11096 (DLC)

5 CITY OF NEW YORK, et al.,

6 Defendants.

7 -----x
ARISBEL GUSMAN,

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

19 Civ. 11691 (DLC)

10 CITY OF NEW YORK, et al.,

11 Defendants.

Conference

12 -----x

New York, N.Y.
February 28, 2020
12:05 p.m.

14 Before:

15 HON. DENISE COTE, District Judge

16 APPEARANCES

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23 NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
24 OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
For Defendants
25 BY: MARK D. ZUCKERMAN, Assistant Corporation Counsel

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(In the robing room)

THE COURT: What are we going to do when we can't meet in person. I'm waiting to see when everything must be by phone for two months.

Anyway, we'll take appearances for the plaintiff.

MR. BERMAN: David Berman from Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady.

MS. KUAN: For the plaintiff, Julia Kuan, from Romano & Kuan.

MR. BRINCKERHOFF: And also for the Camacho plaintiffs, Matt Brinckerhoff, from Emery Celli.

MR. GOLDMAN: For Arisbel Gusman, Steve Goldman.

THE COURT: For the defendants.

MR. ZUCKERMAN: Mark Zuckerman for the appearing defendants in both cases.

THE COURT: Thank you so much. So I've been referring to these two cases by their last two digits, the '91 and the '96 cases, just for ease of reference.

Thank you, counsel, for all the work you've done since our last conference. I greatly appreciate that.

And just to get one issue off the table very quickly. I have a February 26 request from Mr. Zuckerman to move the time to answer from March 3 to March 6. I know that that's unopposed. That's in the '96 case and I grant that application. We'll get an order out reflecting that.

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1 So you've done a lot of work, given a lot of thought
2 to how to approach these cases but I thought I may just speak a
3 bit myself. If there are only 20 or so people who have been
4 arrested through use of this test kit, it's very unlikely there
5 will be a class action in this case. So that's one issue to
6 resolve, whether or not those numbers are reliable or the
7 numbers are greater. So that's one thing that has to be
8 explored for whether or not there's a class action that's
9 possible. One of you point out in your submissions that
10 there's a presumptive number of 40 in this district and that is
11 true. Obviously presumptions can have exceptions. But let's
12 at least start there and try to figure out if we have anything
13 near 40 or if it's instead roughly a score of arrests.

14 So I'm going to ask counsel to talk informally with
15 each other about how to satisfy the plaintiffs' genuine
16 interest and desire to know the accuracy of that number and
17 then formalize, after those discussions, the requests so we
18 have the city's answer, whatever it is, formally made to the
19 plaintiffs in the '96 case and if there's any dispute with
20 respect to these issues just write me a letter no longer than
21 two pages. I'll get you on the phone and help you resolve
22 that. I'm hoping that you could agree on a protocol that the
23 city would use to confirm that number, maybe in discussions
24 over the next week. And then maybe by the end of next week
25 then make a formal request that could be formally responded to

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1 within a week or two thereafter.

2 Does that sound about right in terms of a schedule,
3 Mr. Zuckerman?

4 MR. ZUCKERMAN: It just may take -- it depends on what
5 their requests are and what documents are involved. The first
6 part of that, the discussion next week, I think is -- can
7 certainly be -- we can do that. But it may take more time to
8 produce documents, depending on what we're talking about.

9 THE COURT: So what I'm going to do is just have
10 the -- the word presumption is a good one, a presumptive
11 schedule on this issue. And I'm going to assume that the
12 plaintiffs will serve their written demand for whatever is
13 identified out of your discussions that would satisfy the
14 desire to know the answer to the number by March 6 and that the
15 city will respond to that by March 20, two weeks thereafter.
16 But, of course, if the city needs more time or anyone needs
17 more time you can apply to me and as long as you've been
18 diligent and certainly if there's consent it's more likely to
19 be granted.

20 So March 20 the city will identify number of arrests
21 through the use of the K2 test kit.

22 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Your Honor, if I may, just to be a
23 little more specific, we're talking about liquid K2 arrests.

24 THE COURT: Yes. Maybe I answered too quickly. There
25 are substances that are brought in, in powder form or rock

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1 form?

2 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Solid. I just want to be clear on
3 what exactly we're talking about in this case.

4 THE COURT: Is there a different test used for solid
5 substances than liquid?

6 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I don't believe -- I think that could
7 be identified without a test kit but I need to confirm that for
8 sure but I believe I can just -- that can just be observed.
9 You don't need a test for that.

10 THE COURT: To know whether a solid substance is K2?

11 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Right.

12 MS. KUAN: If I --

13 THE COURT: Well, I'll let counsel discuss all these
14 things. It sounds like there's more to be learned here by the
15 city with respect to these issues and so I'll let you all
16 discuss it next week and, again, if there's a dispute you'll
17 write me a letter no longer than two pages. But right now,
18 yes, it's the K2 test kit to identify liquid form of K2.

19 It seems to me that this discussion about bifurcation
20 for Monell discovery isn't really one on which we should spend
21 a lot of time. As I tried to suggest at our first conference,
22 if we just had a single plaintiff, I think they'd want much of
23 the discovery now that -- whether there's a class action or a
24 Monell claim also. And I think the first level of discovery is
25 how that test was chosen and was it chosen in a way that gave

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1 the city a basis to believe it was a reliable test. I don't
2 want to formulate the test that must be applied under the law
3 but it's the choice of the test. And then the city chooses the
4 test or DOCCS, or whoever chooses the test, and it gives it to
5 individual officers at Rikers Island who use the test with
6 respect to the plaintiffs in the case before me. So the second
7 issue I would assume any individual plaintiff would have would
8 be the circumstances under which that test chosen by the city
9 and distributed to officers at Rikers Island, the circumstances
10 under which it was used for the individual plaintiff involved
11 here. That's a second issue that I think would naturally
12 arise, even if this was just a one-plaintiff case.

13 MR. GOLDMAN: In one instance it is.

14 THE COURT: Yes. In the '91 case.

15 And with respect to the question about who else was
16 arrested through use of this kit that hasn't yet been named as
17 a plaintiff in the '91 case or the '96 case, I think those
18 numbers are appropriate -- numbers and dates probably of
19 arrests and outcome of those arrests, whether there was a
20 successful prosecution or a dismissal, are also appropriate
21 discovery. In some ways they go to the reliability of the
22 city's perhaps ongoing understanding or emerging understanding
23 of the reliability of the test kit. But, I don't think at this
24 point the names or the individual circumstances need to be the
25 subject of discovery. And we can revisit that later on after

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1 we learn more about these other issues. But it sounds like the
2 city already has a handle to some extent on how many occasions
3 the K2 test was used. So it should be able to identify those
4 dates and the dispositions with respect to those uses. Were
5 people arrested or not? And were they ultimately prosecuted?
6 And were those prosecutions successful?

7 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Just on that with respect to what we
8 have knowledge on. We certainly have knowledge as to when the
9 test kit was used and it resulted in a positive field test and
10 an arrest but there would not be statistics or records kept as
11 to when the test kit was used but there was no positive test
12 and no arrest.

13 THE COURT: So that's a matter of paperwork. So the
14 city did or Rikers Island did not keep a record of the use of
15 the test except when there were positive outcomes?

16 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Right.

17 THE COURT: Now, this is interesting. And the city
18 can reflect on this. Because I could imagine that the city
19 would want, if this went to trial, to offer evidence that it
20 used the test on occasion when it did not prove to be positive
21 and made no arrests at that time. So think carefully about
22 whether or not you want to develop that evidence and rely on it
23 down the line.

24 MR. ZUCKERMAN: It just may turn out to be an estimate
25 as opposed to document after document because I don't think

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1 that there are documents as to when the test was used and there
2 was a negative result.

3 THE COURT: OK. Well you'll pin that down.

4 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Yes.

5 MR. GOLDMAN: Judge, can I ask just for clarification
6 on one point you indicate that the -- circumstances the other
7 K2 tests are relevant.

8 THE COURT: This is Mr. Goldman, right?

9 MR. GOLDMAN: Yes, Judge, sorry. I should start with
10 that probably.

11 That the circumstances of the other K2 tests are
12 relevant but you went on to say that the individual
13 circumstances are not. I'm not sure if I understand you in
14 terms of the parameters that are relevant.

15 THE COURT: I'm not going to require the city to
16 disclose the names of the other individuals.

17 MR. GOLDMAN: What about the circumstances surrounding
18 the arrests? Like in my case it was a K2 was allegedly found
19 on magazines and I think probably in at least some of their
20 cases as well. Those I would think that -- those kinds of
21 circumstances would be relevant to the case.

22 THE COURT: Well at this point this is a K2 test used
23 for liquified form so you mean it would make a difference if it
24 was -- it has to be on material that's going to be given to the
25 prisoner.

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1 MR. GOLDMAN: Right. Or the material that it was
2 allegedly found on. Right. I mean so supposedly smuggling K2
3 in on material of one kind or another. That material I think
4 would be relevant to our investigation, to our discovery.

5 THE COURT: OK. Well discuss these issues with each
6 other. I don't actually think that needs to be part of it now.

7 MR. GOLDMAN: OK.

8 THE COURT: If the city agrees, then fine.

9 I mean let me just be frank with you and I don't think
10 this is in dispute that the smuggling of illegal substances
11 into America's prisons, not just Rikers Island but all prisons,
12 is a big issue now. And facilities are trying to figure out
13 how to deal with that problem. And they have to deal with it
14 in a responsible way; responsible to the inmates, responsible
15 to the corrections officers, responsible to visitors,
16 responsible to the Constitution. So this is an interesting
17 piece of litigation where we're looking at that problem in the
18 context of liquefied K2. OK.

19 So, Mr. Zuckerman, the burden is going to be on the
20 city to really pin down how reliable this test is. And even if
21 it's unreliable, that the city had a good reason to believe it
22 was reliable, maybe mistakenly, but good basis to believe it
23 should be used and could be relied on.

24 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Yes. And I think that there's going
25 to have to be testing involved in this case to determine all

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1 these issues regarding the testing and the lab results. So I
2 think there's going to have to be testing to determine a lot of
3 those issues.

4 THE COURT: Well, I'm sure there could be testing.
5 But that's a separate issue from whether or not the city chose
6 to use the test in a responsible fashion.

7 Have you located all the -- all the materials that
8 were tested here? Have they been preserved?

9 MR. ZUCKERMAN: To the best of my knowledge, yes. I
10 had a conversation with the police department this week and
11 they assured me that the 24 --

12 THE COURT: Sets of materials.

13 MR. ZUCKERMAN: -- sets of materials have been
14 preserved for testing.

15 THE COURT: So we've learned that the NYPD found no
16 K2. So how are you going to test these then to locate K2?

17 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Well I would just say that the NYPD
18 did not find that there was not K2. All they can determine is
19 that based upon their test protocols they could not identify.
20 That doesn't mean that there isn't K2. There are laboratories
21 with substantial specialization in this area that if these
22 items can be tested can determine -- hopefully determine one
23 way or the other whether there is K2.

24 THE COURT: Good. So you've identified those
25 laboratories?

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1 MR. ZUCKERMAN: We have a laboratory, yes.

2 THE COURT: And which one is that?

3 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I think it's called NMS.

4 MS. KUAN: NMS? What does that stand for?

5 THE COURT: Counsel this will be a great thing to add
6 to your list for next week. Because wouldn't it be wonderful
7 to have agreement as to what laboratory will test these
8 objects. And, of course, that may bring a whole host of issues
9 as to whether that lab is reliable at all. But if the
10 plaintiffs or the defendant want to test these objects, that's
11 something for you to talk about with each other and agree on a
12 protocol that will properly preserve the objects and hopefully
13 reduce the number of disputes about the retesting.

14 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Just to add one thing. Your Honor
15 said -- wanted us to identify last time kind of core discovery
16 issues that could lead to a resolution. Assuming there is no
17 class action for a moment --

18 THE COURT: And I'm assuming there isn't.

19 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Then if we just talk about resolving
20 the individual plaintiffs' claims, I think it would be helpful
21 to test these items and get a lab determination whether there
22 is K2 or not K2 or whether they just can't determine it based
23 upon the evidence. I think that would be kind of a path toward
24 a possible resolution of the case.

25 THE COURT: Good. Good. So, of course, as a

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1 theoretical matter, just speaking hypothetically, if the city
2 didn't have a good faith basis for choosing this test, even
3 though there's K2 on it, that might be a problem for the city.
4 So the existence of K2 on it is certainly a very interesting
5 fact. And you're very right. It may have a profound impact on
6 settlement discussions. But as a legal matter, it's just one
7 more layer of issues to address here.

8 Good. So, why don't we add to the work you're going
9 to do next week a discussion of a protocol for testing these
10 materials. And the plaintiffs may have a lab they prefer to
11 use. And you'll discuss it with each other. Hopefully we can
12 have agreement on one lab to do this testing, not multiple.

13 But I'd like a letter by March 6 if there is any
14 dispute about laboratory testing of the named plaintiffs'
15 seized materials.

16 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Your Honor, could we just have a
17 little bit more time on that letter? I think it's going to
18 take more time to discuss among the parties.

19 THE COURT: Sure.

20 MR. GOLDMAN: I'm actually going to be out next week.

21 THE COURT: Shall we say March 13 then, two weeks?

22 MR. BRINCKERHOFF: Could I suggest one thing we might
23 add to that same March 13 letter, which I think the court has
24 already averted to, which is the first question -- I think the
25 testing question is indeed interesting and it may be a fact

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1 that will have some impact. Maybe it won't. I don't know.
2 But certainly the core question and the core fact is what input
3 the city had, what diligence they conducted in choosing this
4 particular screening test that they then gave to officers to
5 rely upon and make arrests. And that seems to me to be very
6 much at the core of the most central question. And getting
7 those materials, what the city did to make the determination
8 that this was the test they would use, the directives on how to
9 use it and the fact that they ought to use it and they could
10 rely upon it, that kind of material that shows what the policy
11 was and how they selected this particular test would strike me
12 as being very much in that same core of material that we've
13 been talking about.

14 THE COURT: So let's come to your proposed civil case
15 management plan. You have initial disclosures due March 30.
16 Any reason we can't move that up to March 13?

17 MR. ZUCKERMAN: It's a little bit quick for
18 defendants. Maybe we can -- March 20, perhaps.

19 THE COURT: OK. March 20 for initial disclosures.
20 I'm going the to assume, then, that your initial document
21 demands and interrogatories are going to be served on each
22 other by March 27, the following Friday.

23 And the city should be well on its way right now, it
24 should have already, I'm sure, been doing this, gathering the
25 core documents about the choice of that exam.

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1 So I'm going to assume that the documents will be
2 responded to and produced roughly 30 days later, the end of
3 April.

4 I don't think we're going to push out amendment of
5 pleadings or joinder of parties. Don't we have the pleadings?
6 What amendments are we thinking about?

7 MR. BERMAN: I think the only -- depending on how
8 class discovery unfolds, if we need to add more -- if we need
9 to add more defendants. Right now we have the individual
10 officers who are -- made the arrests but as more people
11 potentially become part of the case or we learn people at the
12 city who were the people behind the policy, obviously we could
13 move for cause to add them.

14 THE COURT: Yes. Let's deal with it that way. So
15 we'll make March 13 also the date for amendment and joinder
16 and, of course, Rule 16 is available if we need to face
17 amendment issues down the line.

18 Let's talk about depositions. I was a little taken
19 aback with the number of depositions that the parties were
20 suggesting here because to me these are policies that are at
21 issue and procedures. And the idea that we're going to take 15
22 to 20 depositions to get at that was a little confusing to me.

23 MR. BERMAN: Your Honor, I think if it's going to
24 be -- if it turns out that it is a policy and practice, we
25 could work out some sort of stipulation, I don't know what it

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1 would be with the city that everyone was acting pursuant to
2 that, I suspect that number could be greatly narrowed. But I
3 think that was provided out of an abundance of caution that to
4 the extent it's going to be disputed that this was -- that the
5 officers weren't acting under individual discretion based on
6 factors that weren't part of a policy, that there is a universe
7 in which we would have to depose all the individual defendants
8 which at this point is between 10 and 15 people alone plus some
9 sort of rule 406(b) deposition of the city and potentially
10 additional officers who were involved. I think that's where
11 that number came from out of an abundance of caution but if it
12 turns out that this was a streamlined process that everyone was
13 acting pursuant to, that number could of course go greatly
14 down.

15 THE COURT: Well as we know, field tests are
16 distributed. They were distributed pursuant to some policy.
17 The test was chosen. It was distributed. So why don't we
18 focus discovery on that: The choice of the test, the
19 distribution of the test with whatever instructions were given
20 to the field about when and how to use it. And that is going
21 to shed a lot of light. And then let's make sure if we haven't
22 had meaningful settlement discussions before that date that we
23 take a pause with that information in hand, hopefully with the
24 test results back on the plaintiffs' materials, and see if we
25 can settle. And if we can't, great, we go forward.

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1 Let's say there are five or six depositions the
2 plaintiffs want to take with respect to identification of test,
3 distribution of test with instructions to the field.

4 MR. BERMAN: On that issue alone, yes, that's
5 absolutely.

6 THE COURT: Do you want depositions at this initial
7 stage? You're not giving up your right to take the plaintiffs'
8 depositions. Do you want individual plaintiffs' depositions at
9 this initial stage?

10 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I'm not sure it's necessary initially.

11 THE COURT: OK. So then if the documents are roughly
12 produced by the end of April and we have six or so depositions
13 to take over May and June and we set July for settlement
14 discussions and then we meet at the end of July and plan if
15 there are cases that resolve the rest of the case, does this
16 make sense?

17 MR. BRINCKERHOFF: Very much so I would say.

18 MR. BERMAN: Yes.

19 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Yes.

20 THE COURT: So mediation -- forgive me. Did we decide
21 on a forum?

22 MR. ZUCKERMAN: For settlement?

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 MR. ZUCKERMAN: No.

25 MS. KUAN: No. We haven't discussed it.

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1 MR. ZUCKERMAN: From defendants' perspective a
2 settlement conference with Judge Wang would be fine.

3 THE COURT: That would be great. Why look further?
4 We have wonderful mediators. That would be great.

5 So I'll set you down for mediation with Judge Wang in
6 July. We'll get out a scheduling order with a late July
7 conference to plan the rest of the schedule. You'll know a lot
8 by then.

9 Again, any discovery dispute, write me a letter no
10 longer than two pages. I'll get you on the phone and hear you
11 out.

12 Now, we have a motion to dismiss.

13 MR. GOLDMAN: I believe it says to my, my client.

14 THE COURT: That was filed on February 27. It's a
15 partial motion to dismiss.

16 Do we need that motion to dismiss now, resolved right
17 now?

18 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I think there are defendants that
19 Mr. Goldman has named that are not in the Camacho action. The
20 one that I'm most concerned with is the Bronx DA's.

21 THE COURT: Yes.

22 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I think that really should not be in
23 the case and I think they want out.

24 THE COURT: Can we dismiss them on consent?

25 MR. GOLDMAN: Yes. I think we can do that.

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1 THE COURT: Good. So I'll let the city get you a stip
2 and then we'll just dismiss this motion to dismiss without
3 prejudice to being refiled later in the case. But I don't
4 think it really makes a lot of sense.

5 I'm sorry. I'm looking for something I thought I
6 pulled for counsel.

7 MR. GOLDMAN: I think that the result of that is not
8 going to affect the litigation.

9 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

10 MR. GOLDMAN: I think that you're correct. The result
11 of that motion to dismiss will not affect the litigation.

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Just on a couple other points in the
14 motion. DOC and NYPD are non-suable entities and they should
15 be out too. And there are just two other claims that just
16 shouldn't be in the case and this negligent hiring theory and
17 this theory that under state law there was an unreasonable
18 delay as to plaintiffs' arraignment I think both of those
19 issues are really clear and they shouldn't be part of this case
20 either.

21 THE COURT: I am absolutely not trying to indicate
22 that there isn't merit to the various motions. But, again, it
23 doesn't go to the core of the litigation and it's just cleaning
24 up around the edges. And so if it affects discovery I think we
25 should address it now as the claims against the DA would. If

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1 it doesn't, I'm not sure we need to.

2 MR. ZUCKERMAN: It could affect -- I will just take
3 his negligent hiring claim. If that claim goes forward all of
4 a sudden we're getting into the hiring decisions of, I don't
5 know, the individual defendants. That wouldn't be part of the
6 case otherwise.

7 THE COURT: So I'm going to ask counsel, please, to
8 consult with each other before the opposition is filed and
9 hopefully the opposition will narrow the issues. But we'll put
10 a briefing schedule on this.

11 Opposition due March 20. Reply due April 3.

12 Now there's a standing issue with respect to the
13 request for injunctive relief and I just wanted to refer
14 counsel to a recent decision I issued in the Picard case,
15 completely different context, but nonetheless has some standing
16 law. And that is 2019 WL 6498306.

17 I notice that the city has decided to suspend the use
18 of the test. Will that decision run for at least the length of
19 this litigation?

20 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I can't say that. No, I can't
21 guarantee that.

22 THE COURT: Good. Will you give us notice -- give me
23 notice if the suspension is going to be lifted?

24 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Yes.

25 THE COURT: How much notice can you give me? Two

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1 weeks?

2 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I would think that's -- we could do
3 that.

4 THE COURT: OK. Good. So I think we have agreement
5 that this initial phase of the discovery is going to focus on
6 how that test was chosen and how it was distributed in the
7 field, with what instructions for its use. And there will be
8 testing of the plaintiffs' seized materials, independent
9 testing. I'll have a motion to dismiss to decide. You have a
10 schedule to try to resolve this case. And then we'll have a
11 conference to clean up any remaining discovery if it isn't
12 resolved in July.

13 So I'm going to go around the table and see if there
14 are any other issues we should address.

15 Mr. Goldman.

16 MR. GOLDMAN: Not that I can think of on my end. I
17 still kind of agree that doing the motion to oppose -- I just
18 think that it's not going to be relevant in any material
19 fashion to the discovery and I think we could -- I'm mean I've
20 already agreed about the DA's office. If the defendants insist
21 I'll do it but it doesn't seem to me particularly pertinent.

22 THE COURT: Well, everyone has a right to bring a
23 motion under the federal rules. So that's it.

24 MR. GOLDMAN: Other than that I have nothing to add.

25 THE COURT: Good. Thanks so much. And Mr. Berman

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1 anything else?

2 MR. BERMAN: Just two small questions. From our meet
3 and confer my impression and from their letter was that
4 defendants intended to file a motion to dismiss in our claim as
5 well and we don't have the non-suable entities or the state law
6 claims that are being referenced. So I just wondering for our
7 own planning purposes if we could have clarity on whether that
8 motion is still moving forward as well.

9 THE COURT: I'll let you folks discuss that.

10 Anything else to raise with me?

11 MR. BERMAN: The only -- my only question you had said
12 testing the named plaintiffs' materials.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 MR. BERMAN: Would it make sense at this point to test
15 you said all 24 were preserved to test all the materials. I
16 just don't want to end up in a situation where we test all six,
17 they're all negative for K2, and then they'll have some sort of
18 defense to that's not reflective of any sort of broader issue
19 with the test because they haven't tested the other 18 and they
20 might have had K2 on them. So I guess if they have all the
21 materials I'm not sure it makes sense to limit that to just the
22 named plaintiffs.

23 THE COURT: I'll let you all discuss that next week.

24 If you have a dispute that comes out of that, happy to hear you
25 again.

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1 MR. BERMAN: OK.

2 MR. ZUCKERMAN: If I may just on that issue, your
3 Honor. I just think that that -- that that would be a
4 difficult thing to do given that these other 16, other than
5 Simone Williams have potential claims. And to do destructive
6 testing on their evidence could be a problem.

7 THE COURT: There are third party rights here
8 potentially but I'll let you all discuss that.

9 So Mr. Zuckerman anything else?

10 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I just want if I can get some clarity
11 on the injunctive relief issue.

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Because I did want to move to dismiss
14 based upon the standing issue and go forward with that. I
15 didn't know whether your Honor was foreclosing that or not.
16 That is an issue I'd like to --

17 THE COURT: Everyone has a right to bring whatever
18 motion the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permit them to
19 bring. I'm not going to limit that and I don't have pre-motion
20 conferences.

21 That said, I've given you a citation to the Picard
22 case on the standing issue, even though it's not -- it's a
23 completely different context. But this is a case in which at
24 least some of the plaintiffs may still be experiencing the
25 six-month ban on visitation. Some of the plaintiffs may still

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1 have relatives or friends that they wish to visit in Rikers.
2 One could think of lots of reasons that these individual
3 plaintiffs would have a desire not to have this use of K2 part
4 of their processing as they try to get entry. And, of course,
5 there's the whole separate issue of is this the kind of
6 infringement of rights, if it is an infringement, and I'm not
7 close to deciding anything on the merits, that's likely to
8 recur that, you know, unless these plaintiffs have standing,
9 who is going to have. So it's a complex issue. It seems to me
10 it's something that we could visit again with care if and when
11 the suspension is lifted. And we will have two weeks notice of
12 that and at that point I'll have an opportunity for everyone to
13 be heard. But, again, if you want to bring a motion I will
14 decide that motion.

15 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I just think the problem from our
16 standpoint is that it's a 12(b)(1) motion at this point and --

17 THE COURT: On not the whole case.

18 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Not the whole case.

19 THE COURT: On a claim for relief.

20 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Right.

21 THE COURT: One of the claims for relief.

22 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Right.

23 THE COURT: So even if you won that, the litigation
24 would go forward.

25 MR. ZUCKERMAN: Right.

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1 But I just think procedurally I think we have to move
2 on the 12(b)(1) as to the injunctive relief.

3 THE COURT: Oh, you think you forfeited your right to
4 bring a standing argument if you don't move now?

5 I don't think that's true. You know, I theoretically
6 could raise the issue sua sponte at any time. It could be
7 raised by the Court of Appeals should it ever have the joy of
8 presiding over this litigation. So I think you're safe.

9 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I realize --

10 MR. BRINCKERHOFF: We would stipulate to allow you to
11 raise Article III jurisdictional issue at any time.

12 MR. ZUCKERMAN: I know it's not waivable but -- I
13 think courts have also said it should get resolved as early as
14 possible. I could be wrong about that.

15 THE COURT: I think it should be if it were going to
16 bring a hold to the litigation or affect the scope of discovery
17 or the number of defendants or any number of things. It's
18 just, practically speaking here, I don't think it has any
19 impact on the conduct of the litigation at this point. But you
20 bring the motion. You control this. You bring the motion.
21 We'll brief it and decide it.

22 MR. BRINCKERHOFF: If not, I'll just add. Because the
23 policy has been suspended, obviously with appropriate notice if
24 it gets reinstated, we are not about to make a motion to seek
25 any kind of immediate injunctive relief. So it's basically a

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1 dead letter unless and until that changes.

2 MR. ZUCKERMAN: No. I understand but I still think
3 that --

4 MR. BRINCKERHOFF: OK. I just wanted to emphasize
5 that from our perspective.

6 MR. ZUCKERMAN: The likelihood-of-future-harm prong is
7 still a live issue based upon your complaint.

8 THE COURT: Thank you so much, counsel. Have a great
9 weekend.

10 (Adjourned)